

## DESCRIPTIONS OF TWO NEW SOUTH AFRICAN LIZARDS, *TETRADACTYLUS LAEVICAUDA* AND *T. FITZSIMONSI*.

By JOHN HEWITT.

### *Tetradactylus laevicauda*, sp. nov.

Body elongate: limbs short but fully developed and pentadactyle: the length of the hind limb slightly exceeds the distance between the end of the snout and the base of the forelimbs. Dorsal shields fairly strongly striated over the greater part of the body, but those on the neck are only very feebly striated and none are keeled, the posterior dorsal and anterior caudal shields being quite devoid of a median keel. The head shields are quite smooth with trace of ribbing. The caudal shields over the greater portion of the tail are quite smooth, but at its base they are carinate like the posterior dorsal shields, a condition which rapidly gives place to feeble ribbing a short distance behind the base of the tail: the ventral and lateral caudal scales are quite smooth, except in the terminal third of the length of the tail, where they are keeled: in the terminal fourth all the caudal scales, including the dorsals, are strongly keeled. Dorsal shields in 13 longitudinal and 62 transverse series: ventrals in 8 longitudinal series. Femoral pores 7 on each side. General colour olive, with a pale dorsolateral band commencing as a narrow streak near the nostril, passing along the supraciliary scales and the outer margin of the parietals to the neck, then continuing along the body and gradually broadening, being broadest about the middle of the body, where it is about two scales broad, then gradually narrowing and ending on the basal portion of the tail. Sides of head, neck, and body and upper surfaces of the limbs brownish black: upper lip with pale spots: smaller pale spots also occur on the sides of the neck inferiorly and on the anterior part of the flanks. Ventral surfaces, except the tail, pale: the scales immediately bordering the lateral fold spotted with black on the neck and body. Tail brownish olive.

Total length 185 mm. (tip of tail lost), length of head measured laterally 10.5, breadth of same 7.25, length of forelimb 12.75, hind-limb 20.75, of tail (minus tip) 122.

This description is based on a single specimen from Tabamhlope, Natal, number 2524 in the collection of the Transvaal Museum.

This species is closely related to *T. seps*, Linn, from which it differs chiefly in the nature of the carination of the dorsal scales and also in the number of femoral pores. *T. seps* is at present known only from the western parts of Cape Colony, the most eastern records being Knysna.

### *Tetradactylus Fitzsimonsi*, sp. nov.

Serpentiform: Forelimbs completely absent, hindlimbs minute, undivided, with a single terminal claw and with two or three femoral pores. Dorsal shields in 14 longitudinal and 69 or 70 transverse series: ventrals in 6 longitudinal series. Head shields smooth, interparietal elongated about twice as long as broad or even more. All

the dorsal shields of the neck and body are striated: those on the body are also strongly keeled, most pronouncedly so on the two mesial rows of scales, which moreover are broader than any of the other dorsal or lateral scales. The dorsal shields of the neck are not keeled: most of the lateral scales of the neck are striated, but several of those most anteriorly situated are entirely smooth or only feebly ribbed. All the lateral scales of the body are striated and keeled. The caudal scales are strongly keeled throughout, and the dorsal and dorsolateral scales are also striated. The lateral fold is slightly curved in the neck region, but straight along the body. The general colour is olive with small darker spots on the upper surface of the head. Dark brown spots also occur on the posterior borders of the scales of the neck superiorly. The temple and side of the neck have dark brown vertical bars, which occur on the posterior borders of the scales and extend to the scales of the lateral row of the ventral region on each side.

Subocular shield with dark spots, and dark markings also occur along the upper and lateral borders of the upper labials. Ventral surfaces pale.

Measurements of larger specimens:—

|                                 |          |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| Length of head ... ..           | 11 mm.   |
| Breadth of same ... ..          | 6.2 mm.  |
| Length of hindlimb ... ..       | 5 mm.    |
| Distance from snout to vent ... | 78.5 mm. |

The tail is reproduced at a point 97 mm. distant from the vent. A somewhat smaller specimen with original tail intact has the following proportions:—Distance from snout to vent 72 mm., length of tail 237 mm.

The two examples show the following differences in head scaling: The large specimen has the two frontoparietals meeting in the midline and forming a long suture, whereas in the other specimen the two frontoparietals are completely separated by a backward prolongation of the frontal meeting the interparietal. Description based on two specimens kindly lent to me by Mr. F. W. Fitzsimons, the Director of the Port Elizabeth Museum. The larger one came from Schoemachers Kop, near Port Elizabeth; the other is labelled as from Kroonstad (this locality record is, I think, doubtful).

*Tetradactylus Fitzsimonsi* is the most serpentiform species of the genus, and, indeed, of the family. It is closely related to *T. africanus*, Gray, but may be distinguished from that species by the complete absence of the forelimbs, at any rate as external structures.

I may here remark that the description of *T. africanus* given in the British Museum catalogue of lizards, Vol. III, p. 125, is apparently incorrect in respect to the dorsal scaling, these cited as in 60 to 62 transverse series: in the only specimen of this species which I have been able to examine (from Witzies Hoek, near Harrismith, coll. Natal Museum) the number of transverse series is the same as in *Fitzsimonsi*, and all the forms referable to the *africanus* group, including *breyeri* Roux and *Eastwoodae* Hewitt and Methuen, seem to be characterized by a greater number of transverse series than occurs in *Seps* L. *tetradactylus* Lacép or *laevicauda* sp. nov. The above-mentioned specimen of *Africanus* differs from *Fitzsimonsi* in possessing a broader interparietal scute and in the absence of dark spots on the head as well as in the limb character.

## KEY TO THE SPECIES OF TETRADACTYLUS.

A.—*Limbs pentadactyle.*

(a) Dorsal scales of head ribbed, of tail keeled, 9-12 femoral pores.  
*T. seps*, Linn.

(b) Dorsal scales of head and of greater portion of tail, except near the tip, quite smooth: 7 femoral pores.

*T. laevicauda*, sp. nov.

B.—*Limbs tetradactyle.*

(c) 4 or 5 femoral pores *T. tetradactylus*, Lacép.

C.—*Anterior limb with 3 clawed digits, hindlimb with 2 clawed digits.*

(d) 3 femoral pores. *T. eastwoodae*, Hewitt and Methuen.

D.—*Anterior limb with 2 clawed digits, hindlimb undivided and without claws.*

(e) 2 femoral pores. *T. breyeri*, Roux.

E.—*Anterior limb minute, posterior limb small and undivided.*

(f) 2 or 3 femoral pores. *T. africanus*, Gray.

F.—*Anterior limb quite absent, posterior limb small and undivided.*

(g) 2 or 3 femoral pores. *T. fitzsimonsi*, sp. nov.